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Ch'eng-tu, 19 July (Hsin-hau) -- In Szechwan, 3,600,000 mou of cotton plants are doing well. In the Fu Chiang valley on about one million mou the cotton is 24 inches high. In Sui-ning Hsien of Szechwan many plants have stalks bearing 14 to 15 branches with four or five bolls on each branch. Unless some disaster occurs there will be a good cotton harvest throughout the whole of Szechwan Provinces.

NORTH CHINA PREPARES TO GRADE AND GIN COTTON -- Tientsin, Ta Kung Pao, 12 Aug 53

Peiping, 10 August (Hsin-hau) -- North China ranks first in cotton production in China. The area planted in 1953 was about the same as in 1952, but it is estimated that the production per unit will be higher than in 1952. For example, in Hopeh Province, a 3.9 percent increase is expected over the previous year.

In May and June all the provincial cooperatives of North China started to train workers to grade cotton. In Hopeh Province 4,000 people were given this instruction. The training of cadres for grading cotton was also emphasized by all the Printed Cotton Manufacturing Companies and the North China Fiber Testing Bureau.

Samples of graded cotton were made up by a committee organized by the Associated Cooperatives of North China, the Fiber Testing Bureau and other like units. Large quantities of these samples will be sent to all cotton-purchasing stations as models for grading.

Preparations for cotton ginning are being made by all the cooperatives whose cotton-buying units have made contracts with the 678 gins in North China belonging to national, cooperatives, and private companies. These gins have 3,700 power balers and 48,600 hand balers. The Association of Cooperatives of North China has called an area-wide conference, to study cotton-processing techniques that will assure a high-grade product.

SHANGHAI MILLS GET IMPROVED NATIVE COTTON -- Tientsin, Ta Kung Pao, 12 Aug 53

Shanghai, 19 August (Hsin-hau) -- The cotton mills of Shanghai are being supplied with a larger amount and a better grade of native cotton than formerly. An assured plentiful supply of raw cotton will prevent any such closing of the mills as occurred for 1½ months in 1951 from lack of raw material.

The raw cotton is markedly improved in quality. Before liberation, the cotton produced in China was all coarse in texture with comparatively short fibers. It also contained much trash and a high percentage of moisture. The cotton fibers were not of uniform length and unsuitable for use by the cotton mills.

Improved varieties of cotton such as the "ch i" type in the Yellow River Basin and the "te" and "tai" types in the Yangtze River Basin produce a fibre that is long, fine in texture, soft and white. The tensile strength is good.

In buying cotton, the cooperatives follow the policy of high prices for high-grade cotton and so induce the farmers to sell cotton according to grade. The East China Cotton Testing Offices has reported that almost all the raw cotton is up to the required standard as far as moisture and adulteration are concerned. Some is even better than the required standard.

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Because of this plentiful supply and better grade of cotton the raw cotton fiber used in Shanghai mills for manufacturing No 20 yarn has improved from an average length of .675 inches to almost one inch. Domestic cotton can now be spun into high-grade No 42 and No 60 cotton thread for the manufacture of cloth of very good quality.

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